

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1517

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS KINSHASA 1757

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, BE, PFOR

SUBJECT: "A BELGIAN IN ZAIRE"

REF: KINSHASA 0137

1. KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA FEBRUARY 28 CARRIED FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, "A BELGIAN IN ZAIRE", WHICH, AFTER RECALLING MOBUTU'S JANUARY 4 WARNING REGARDING DIPLOMATIC SABOTAGE (REFTEL) AND RIDICULING RUMORS OF MOBUTU'S IMMINENT FALL, ACCUSED BELGIAN AMBASSADOR KERREMANS OF HOLDING "SUBVERSIVE" DINNERS. AT THOSE DINNERS, ATTENDED BY DIPLOMATS AND ZAIRIAN BUSINESSMEN, HE ALLEGEDLY ATTACKED ZAIRE, PREDICTED EARLY FALL OF MOBUTU, AND SAID TIME HAS COME TO HALT ALL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AID TO ZAIRE BECAUSE AUTHORITIES OF SUCCESSOR REGIME WOULD REGARD SUCH AID AS SUPPORT FOR MOBUTISM.

2. EDITORIAL NOTED "NEGATIVE ATTITUDE" OF PREVIOUS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR (VAN DEN BLOOCK) WHICH RESULTED IN HIS EVENTUAL RECALL. EXPRESSED REGRET AT BEHAVIOR PRESENT INCUMBENT WHO, INSTEAD OF PROMOTING MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND KING OF BELGIANS, "THROWS SAND IN WHEELS OF BELGO-ZAIRIAN COOPERATION". EDITOR SAID HE WAS SURE KERREMANS HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE IN ZAIRIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SOW SUBVERSION, BUT SAID THIS MADE IT ALL MORE DIFFICULT TO

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EXPLAIN KERREMAN'S "PERSONAL AND DANGEROUS GAME". CONCEDED

ALLEGED REMARKS WERE MADE IN PRIVATE, BUT EXPRESSED SENSE
OF BETRAYAL THAT NUMEROUS AND DELICATE TIES BETWEEN TWO
COUNTRIES HAD BEEN SO "SCANDALOUSLY" STRAINED BY THIS
"STRANGE DIPLOMAT".
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Message Attributes

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